GAINESVILLE SUN APRIL 5, 1977 — P. 1

Oswald Letter a Phony, Critic Says

HOWARD ROFFMAN
Author of Book

By CARL CRAWFORD
Sun Staff Writer

A letter allegedly written by Lee Harvey Oswald to a Mr. Hunt asking for information two weeks prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is a fake, a recent University of Florida law graduate and Warren Commission critic told The Sun this morning.

Howard Roffman, author of "Presumed Guilty," a book critical of the investigation into Kennedy's murder, said the short letter is an attempt by someone to discredit Warren Commission critics. Who that someone is Roffman dosn't know, but he doesn't rule out government agencies which he said have tried to cover up the truth in the Kennedy murder.

Roffman, 23, wrote in 1971 and had it published in 1975. He had investigated the Kennedy assassination since 1966, he said.

The letter was sent to Roffman in August, 1975, from someone in Mexico using the initials P.S. Dated Nov. 8, 1963, the letter says: "Mr. Hunt. I would like information concerding (sic) my position. I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else. Thank you, Lee Harvey Oswald."

In a cover letter, written in Spanish, P.S. said he sent a copy of the letter to FBI Director Clarence Kelley in late 1974 but hadn't heard anything from Kelley. Earlier this week, an FBI spokesman said the bureau did not receive the letter then.

The letter is receiving attention now because Dutch journalist Willem Oltmans quoted George Hohrenschildt, an Oswald friend committed suicide in Palm Beach Tuesday, as saying de Mohrensch was a middleman between late billionaire H. L. Hunt and Oswald Kennedy murder plot.

Roffman said he knew when received the letter in 1975 that it w fake. "It is an attempt to imi Oswald's handwriting," Roffman s and the misspelling of concerne "characteristic of the way Osw wrote.

"I think it's obvious someon trying to imitate him," Roffman sa

According to Roffman and r reports over the weekend, the FBI only recently received a copy of letter. A former aide of oilman

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delivered a copy to them, according to a story from the Feb, 6 Dallas Morning News which made the letter public then.

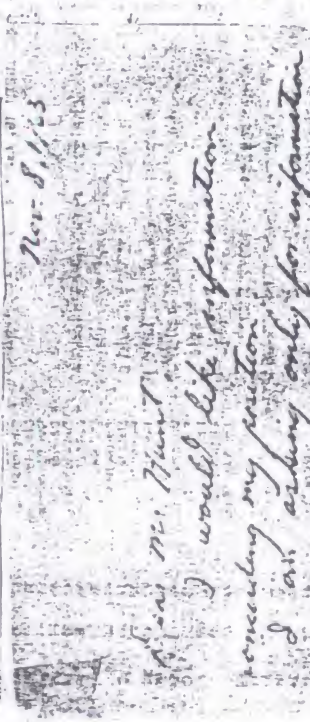
Roffman said Harold Weisburg, the "dean" of Warren Commission critics, and Penn Jones, a retired newspaper editor and Warren Commission critic from Midlothian, Tex., also have received copies of the letter and there may be others.

He and Weisburg compared the copies to samples of Oswald's handwriting and agreed it was a fake. The FBI believes the letter is fake and that it is impossible to determine its authenticity without having the original letter.

Roffman's belief about the Kennedy assassination is that Oswald was framed and government agencies have been trying to cover up a more extensive plot.

"I think it's clear someone's trying to draw a connection between Hunt and Oswald largely to try and pick up the incredulous critics of the Warren Commission to discredit them," Roffman said.

He personally hasn't been contacted by anyone in the government about the copy he received, Roffman said. He said the FBI wouldn't have known he had a copy of the letter until Monday when his name was mentioned in a New York Times story on the letter.

Roffman said interest in the letter has picked up because of the U.S. House Assassination Committee's probe into the murders of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

Three handwriting experts, hired by the Dallas Morning News, reported on Sunday that the letter was written by Oswald. They compared the copy of the letter with samples of writing identified by the Warren Commission as Oswald's.